The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 19

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THE DESTROYER INVINCIBLE COLONIA RODANY HAS ARRIVED.

HOOONK

Chapter 19 - Choice

HURRY UP AND CHECK HER FOR DAMAGE!

Aye, sir!

Aye, sir!

AND SORT THE FUEL FROM THE FOOD STOCKS AT ONCE.

SFX: CREAK X5, STOMP X2

SFX: CREAK X6

NOW, DID YOU DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF SHIP THE LADY IS?

TAP

THEY'RE NO LONGER IN BUSINESS.

HER ENGINE COMES FROM A SMALL WORKSHOP IN THE BOOTLE AREA OF LIVER-POOL.

SHE SET SAIL THREE YEARS AGO.

BOOTLE IN LIVER-POOL...

THAT'S THE SAME PLACE WHERE RYAN HARRISON DIED...

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT NOTHING.

SFX: STOMP X2

PARDON ME!

THE DESTROYER HAS DISPATCHED A MESSENGER FROM THE NAVY.

WHAT IS IT?

WELL...

SFX: RUSTLE

SINCE THEY CAN'T MAKE THE PARTS THEMSELVES, THEY WANT TO CAPTURE THIS ONE, I SUPPOSE.

WE'RE TO USE MILITARY FORCE TO TAKE THE CRADLE.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

WE *ALWAYS* HAVE TO.

IT'S FOR THE COUNTRY'S SAKE.

WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT.

CLENCH

SO THEY REALLY ARE REBUILDING IT, ARE THEY?

THESE ORDERS...

SAY TO *KILL* EVERYONE ABOARD THE LADY.

I WONDER.

WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR.

THEY MUST HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING THE TOP BRASS DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW.

WHY IS THERE NO INFORMATION EVEN WITHIN THE NAVY OF THE ACCIDENT THAT BEFELL THE CRADLE?

IF WE'VE RECEIVED AN ORDER LIKE THIS, THAT MEANS THEY'VE DECIDED TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY...

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

ザザザ…

Southeast Atlantic, near the territorial waters of the Azores islands.

It's been three days since the captain's speech...

SFX: FSSSSH

ザザザーー!

SFX: SPLASH, BOOM

CREAK

ゴオオオオ

SFX: ROAAAR

FLINCH

WE CAN FINALLY SPEAK.

ゴオオオオ…

SFX: ROAAAAR

ENGINEER LOUIS MACFARLANE.

I WONDER IF WE EVER GREETED EACH OTHER BEFORE?

ERIC FRASIER AND THE DUKE...

NEITHER OF THEM KNEW A THING ABOUT MY EXISTENCE.

I WAS A PATRON BACK THEN, SO THE ONLY ONES I EVER MET WERE THE MANAGEMENT.

I NEVER SAW YOU AT THE SHIPYARD.

SHE SEEMED SO HAPPY ABOUT IT.

SHE WAS ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT THIS YOUNG GENIOUS ENGINEER SHE HAD.

SLIP

STILL, SOPHIA OFTEN SPOKE OF YOU.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD, LOSING YOUR ARM AND LEG.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN YOU.

I WASN'T THERE.

WERE YOU WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED?

WHERE...

DUKE.

I SEE...

MY MEMORIES OF THE ACCIDENT ARE FUZZY.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION,

OR EVEN WHY SOPHIA DIED!

DO YOU...

KNOW ANYTHING?

DIDN'T SHE... SAY ANYTHING?!

I SEE...

OF... COURSE.

CLANK

I'M SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW.

CLONK

BUT,

I DO HAVE ONE THING TO TELL YOU.

SOPHIA ENTRUSTED ME...

WITH THE PLANS FOR THE CRADLE.

AND AS FOR THE ENGINE...

I HID THEM HERE WHERE THE NAVY WOULDN'T FIND THEM.

LOUIS, ARE YOU IN HERE?

SOPHIA...

INTENDED THIS AS THE CRADLE'S SISTER SHIP.

LOUIS.

THE CRADLE ISN'T LOST,

I WANT YOU TO BRING THE ENGINE BACK UP AGAIN.

THERE'S A CERTAIN SHIPYARD I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE ME TO.

BRING ABOUT THE SHIPS OF THE NEXT GENERATION?

SFX: CLENCH

WON'T YOU HELP ME...

THIS SHIP'S NEXT PORT IS THE AZORES, A SOVEREIGN STATE OF PORTUGAL.

AFTER THAT, WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE TO A COURSE THAT WILL MAKE US HARD FOR THE NAVY TO FIND.

OUR NEW DESTINATION IS BLOCK, AN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF AMERICA.

BLOCK? WHY ARE WE GOING SOMEWHERE WEIRD LIKE THAT?

...

AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,

IF WE KEEP GOING LIKE THIS,

NOBODY'LL MAKE UP THEIR MINDS.

WHEN IS SOMEONE GONNA EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHY THE NAVY'S AFTER US IN THE FIRST PLACE?

!

THE NAVY WANTS TO STEAL IT.

THE DUKE IS INVOLVED WITH A NEW KIND OF SHIP CALLED THE CRADLE.

TO PUT IT PLAINLY,

YOU'RE RIGHT...

BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH OF A REASON TO DRAG US ALL INTO IT.

SO WE DECIDED TO HELP HIM.

AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE DUKE'S COMMITTED NO CRIME.

IS THAT REALLY ALL, FOR SUCH A BIG SPEECH...?

IF WE CAN REACH OUR DESTINATION, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SET SAIL AGAIN ON A PROPER VOYAGE!

IN EXCHANGE, THE DUKE HAS PROMISED TO FIX ALL DAMAGES TO THE LADY.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS RYAN PERSON.

I'M SORRY, NEAL.

SO LET'S GO BY A ROUTE THAT THE NAVY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND!

THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

DON'T BE A FOOL!

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER...

COUNT ME AND TONY OUT.

AND... AND ME.

ME TOO!

JUST LET THEM GO, IF THEY WANT OUT.

THAT'S...

WELL... WELL!

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND ANY WORK IN THE AZORES OR NOT ANYWAY, RIGHT?

カチーン!!

WHAT?

SFX: CLICK

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T YOU THINK OUR SHIP...

MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF LOTS OF PEOPLE?

WHY DON'T YOU HELP US OUT?

HEY!

SHUT IT, GIL! YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING LIKE YOU'RE SOMEONE IMPORTANT... AREN'T YOU JUST PLANNING TO BECOME A PIRATE?

WELL THEN,

FINE! RUN AWAY WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS!

HMPH!

DON'T EXPECT TO SEE ME ON DECK AGAIN!

GIL...

ゴーン

CHANGE COURSE! DARK CLOUDS AND HIGH WAVES ARE COMING FROM BEHIND!

SFX: BANG X2

A... ANYWAY. WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK FOR NOW!

WHAT?! JUST BECAUSE I'M LEAVING DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO QUIT WORKING RIGHT NOW.

WHAT?

SFX: WHOOOOOO

ヒョオオオ…!

Six

Two

Heave!

IN A TEMPEST LIKE THIS, THE WIND COULD CHANGE DIRECTION IN AN INSTANT.

LOUIS, SLOW US DOWN!

SLOW, SIR!

ヒュオオオオ…

7 POINTS TO STAR-BOARD, SIR!

CLOP

GIL! 7 POINTS TO STAR-BOARD!

SFX: WHOOOOO

OH! SORRY ABOUT THAT. I JUST GOT A BIT WORKED UP!

ALL THAT STUFF EARLIER.

HUH?

WILL EVERY-THING BE ALL RIGHT?

THAT'S... UNEXPECTEDLY CALM FOR YOU.

ヒュオオ…

I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE REASONS FOR WANTING TO LEAVE AND CAN'T BE STOPPED.

Like an old man...

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE ALWAYS YELLING AT EVERYONE TOO, AIN'TCHA!?

I JUST DIDN'T WANT THOSE WHO CHOSE TO STAY GETTING DISCOURAGED.

We'll probably have a shortage of people after...

SFX: WHOOOOOO

BUT YOU CAN ENTRUST IT TO ME. DON'T WORRY!

LISTEN,

I KNOW YOU HAVE STUFF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT,

AAAH!

!

SFX: BOOOOM

NGGGG!

SFX: FSSSSH X3

FWOOP

THUNK

HEY! TOSS A LINE OVER HERE!

DAMNIT. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE!

SFX: YANK

HA! NOW, SET IT STRAIGHT!

ヒョオオオ

THE SAIL'S TOO FULL.

GIL!

FLAP

FLAP

SFX: WHOOOO, CREAK X4

AT THIS RATE... IT'LL...

HA-

SFX: FWOOM

SFX: BOOM

CRAP! I CAN'T REACH THE

AHH?!

BACK TO STAR-BOARD!

SFX: YANK

WHEEL.

SFX: FWOOSH

TEACH ME HOW TO USE THIS THING!

GIL...

GIL! TEACH ME!

UH, RIGHT.

TURN IT TO THE RIGHT ONCE, THEN TWICE TO THE LEFT!

LOOK AT THE COMPASS THERE AND KEEP GOING UNTIL THE RED LINE MATCHES UP WITH EAST NORTH EAST.

ﾅﾞﾚ.ﾅﾞﾚ...

SFX: SPIN X2

LOOK UP! THE SAIL'S GOING TO CHANGE DIRECTION AGAIN!

ﾊﾞｻ

SFX: FWOOM

WHEN YOU SEE THAT, GIVE IT ANOTHER HALF TURN! SLOWLY BRING IT BACK.

SFX: BANG

THE SAIL'S CLOSING!

DON'T TURN IT TOO FAR!

A NEW HELMSMAN?

WHO? GIL MAY BE RUDE BUT HE'S WELL-MUSCLED.

YOU CAN FEEL IT, RIGHT? MATCH UP WITH THE SHIP!

WE... WE DID IT!

WHAT IS THIS...?

TAP

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

HEY!

SFX: STOMP

YOU'RE A GIRL?!

"BUT YOU CAN ENTRUST IT TO ME. DON'T WORRY!"

SIGH

"I KNOW YOU HAVE STUFF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT,"

GRAB

THIS IS...!

I'VE BEEN HIDING THE FACT THAT I'M A WOMAN.

MY REAL NAME IS MONICA.

MY NAME...

I... WELL, FOR NOW, PLEASE CAN'T YOU JUST USE ME TO STEER THE SHIP?!

BUT PLEASE!

I KNOW THAT WAS WRONG OF ME!

I WANT TO BECOME LIKE YOU ALL!

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WELL...

THAT GIRL... SHE'S BEEN CROSS-DRESSING.

TONY,

WE'RE GOING TO DISEMBARK, RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED?

WHAT?!

WELL, I KIND OF FIGURED.

...

NO. I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER.

STRONGER, HUH...?

MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD ATTITUDE...

HMM...

I SEE... SO THEN MY BROTHER HAS ALREADY TAKEN OVER THE FAMILY.

Azores Islands

YES. MONICA IS SEARCHING FOR YOU, AND SHE HAS EVAN WITH HER...

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT LONDON.

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE NAVY...

SFX: CLENCH

WE DON'T KNOW.

THEIR WHERE-ABOUTS?

IT SEEMS THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THE DUKE ABOARD A SHIP CALLED LADY OF THE SEA.

APPARENTLY IT'S A STRANGE SHIP, WITH ABNORMALLY HIGH HORSE-POWER.

BUT THE ONLY REASON WE HAVE THIS INTELLIGENCE IS BECAUSE YOU WERE ABLE TO GET SO CLOSE TO THE NAVY.

I'M SORRY, BUT I NEED TO ASK THE TWO OF YOU TO CONTINUE SEARCHING.

NOD

NOD

A STRANGE SHIP...

WE MUST PREPARE QUICKLY.

IF...

WE CAN'T STOP THAT SHIP, THEN THE DUKE...